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The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security

Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: emergency international assistance for peace, normalcy and reconstruction of war-stricken Afghanistan

Macroeconomic policy questions: international trade and development

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Letter dated 16 September 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to forward to you the text of the joint statement entitled "Central Asia + Japan", signed by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Japan, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan at a meeting held in Astana, Kazakhstan, on 28 August 2004 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 27, 39 (d), 83 (a) and 148, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yerzhan Kh. **Kazykhanov**

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Annex to the letter dated 16 September 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and Russian]

Joint Statement
"Central Asia + Japan" Dialogue/Foreign Ministers' Meeting
—Relations between Japan and Central Asia as They Enter a New Era—

Astana, August 28, 2004

We, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan and the Foreign Ministers of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan, and the Republic of Uzbekistan held a meeting on August 28, 2004, in Astana, Kazakhstan, and discussed future cooperation between Japan and Central Asia.

We welcomed that the "Central Asia + Japan" Dialogue had been initiated as a new framework for cooperation, thereby elevating relations between Japan and Central Asia to a new level, and shared the following views.

1. Fundamental principles and values

(1) We shared the view that the peace and stability of the Central Asian region is of a great importance to the stability and prosperity not only for Eurasia but also for the entire international community.

(2) We appreciated steady progress of cooperative relationship between Japan and Central Asia.

(3) We shared the view that, based on the friendly relations built up hitherto, mutual cooperation would be further deepened and expanded through ongoing exchanges of views concerning the possibilities for new development of the relationship between Central Asia and Japan, and the means of fostering the relationship.

(4) Noting that, through assiduous post-independence nation-building efforts made by the Central Asian countries to achieve stability and growth with the aim of realizing democratization and market economies, the Central Asian countries have maintained the stability of the region and have contributed to the peace and stability of Eurasia, we affirmed that for the Central Asian countries it will remain extremely important to continue and further strengthen various efforts to counter terrorism and eradicate poverty, to create free and democratic societies, to achieve stabilization and improvement of people's daily lives through steady economic growth, as well as to ensure human security. The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan expressed Japan's expectations with respect to the further efforts to be made by the Central Asian countries, and reaffirmed its intention to assist the efforts made by each country.

(5) Noting that the threat of terrorism still remains high in the region, we reiterated the shared view that terrorism cannot be justified for any reason and can never be tolerated. We also reaffirmed the utmost importance of enhancing close international cooperation in this context.

(6) We stated our intent for Japan and Central Asia to address both regional and global issues as partners.

2. Further deepening and broadening of the relationship between Japan and Central Asia

(1) We reaffirmed that, given the historical and cultural ties between Japan and Central Asia, there exists a solid foundation for the further developing and deepening of their friendly relations.

(2) The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan appreciated the nation-building efforts made by the Central Asian countries. The Ministers of the Central Asian countries expressed their gratitude for Japan's assistance, extended hitherto as a part of its "Silk Road diplomacy" that has made an important contribution to the peace, stability and prosperity of their countries.

(3) Based on the recognition that, in the present international situation, where the Central Asian countries are acquiring greater geopolitical importance, the cooperative relationship between the Central Asian countries and Japan contributes to the peace and stability not only for the Central Asian region but also for the international community as a whole, we expressed our intention to seek further possibilities for cooperation, noting that the cooperation between Japan and the Central Asian countries had been achieved in a number of fields including those set out below;

- Cooperation for the consolidation of peace
- Cooperation for economic and social development
- The expansion of economic interaction and the strengthening of the foundations therefor
- Cooperation relating to energy and environmental issues
- Cooperation towards the expansion of cultural exchange
- The facilitation and promotion of human exchanges and human resource development

3. The importance of Intra-regional cooperation within the Central Asian region

(1) Sharing the recognition that there are a number of challenges in the Central Asian region that all the countries in the region equally face and that are difficult for any individual country to resolve alone, such as terrorism, drugs, transportation, effective use of water and energy resources, trade, protection of environment, we shared the view that effective solutions should be found to these problems in order to achieve peace and stability in Central Asia and to achieve prosperity by realizing the region's economic development potential.

(2) We further noted that, by Central Asian countries joining their hands, a market of economically more viable scale could emerge. For these purposes participants of the meeting have emphasized importance of implementation of the initiative on gradual creation of the Central-Asian Common Market, which will promote more complete use of available potential of the region, its stable development and deepening regional cooperation.

(3) We recognized that, by establishing solidarity among the Central Asian countries and deepening intra-regional cooperation with a view to addressing the common challenges mentioned above, the entire region could achieve robust growth and prosperity as a coherent and resilient community.

(4) Sharing the recognition that the peace and reconstruction of Afghanistan is essential for the stability and prosperity of the Central Asian region, we expressed our common intention to strengthen cooperation for assisting the realization of the peace and reconstruction of Afghanistan.

(5) The Ministers of the Central Asian countries expressed their view that, for the aforementioned purposes, the Central Asian countries should take steady and concrete steps for such intra-regional cooperation, in spite of possible initial difficulties.

(6) The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan expressed Japan's willingness to support and assist efforts made by the Central Asian countries to cooperate among themselves to address the aforesaid issues.

4. Cooperation in the international arena

(1) We affirmed that solidarity among the Central Asian countries would not only lead to the growth and prosperity of the region but would also, given the region's geopolitical importance, occupy an important position in the international community.

(2) We shared the intention that Japan and the Central Asian countries will enhance their cooperation in the international arena, including that within in international organizations, such as the United Nations, and will constructively collaborate to resolve issues which have international dimensions.

(3) We confirmed that the core of the United Nations reform, and particularly of the Security Council reform, is the expansion in both permanent and non-permanent categories of the Security Council. The Ministers of the Central Asian countries further expressed their expectation that Japan would play more political roles in the international community, and expressed their unanimous support for Japan's permanent membership in the Security Council.

5. The "Central Asia + Japan" Dialogue

(1) We affirmed that, in pursuing further cooperation between the Central Asian countries and Japan, the "Central Asia + Japan" Dialogue initiated at this meeting will proceed in accordance with the basic principles set out below.

- Respect for diversity
- Competition and coordination
- Open cooperation

(2) We affirmed that the following objectives will be pursued through this dialogue.

- The strengthening of peace, stability, and democracy in the Central Asian region
- The strengthening of the region's economic foundations, the promotion of reform and the social development of the region, including the correction of intra-regional disparities
- The strengthening of intra-regional cooperation by the Central Asian countries
- The maintenance and development of good relations between Central Asia and neighboring regions as well as with the international community
- Cooperation between Japan and Central Asia with respect to both regional issues and issues having international dimensions.

(3) We shared the recognition that cooperation under this Dialogue will assist Central Asia's voluntary efforts and will contribute to increasing the region's economic resilience, to assuring the stability and development of the region, and to further strengthening the solidarity among the countries of the region.

6. Promoting future dialogue and communication

(1) We shared the view that the basis of the relationships between Japan and the Central Asian countries should be strengthened further by promoting broad-ranging human exchanges, including those among the youth generation.

(2) We shared the view that the "Central Asia + Japan" Dialogue would be pursued at various levels. We shared the view that "the 2005 World Exposition in Aichi, Japan" could provide an important opportunity in this regard.

August 28, 2004

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Mr. Kassymzhomart Tokaev
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Republic of Kazakhstan

Mr. Askar Aitmatov
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Kyrgyz Republic

Mr. Talbak Nazarov
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Mr. Sodiq Safaev
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